The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take another opportunity to explain the mathematical complications of the question."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The mathematics of it has been admitted to be correct by the hon. Minister, Sir."

Public Works

Use of steel windows and doors for police quarters.

* 1767 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Public Works Department has been asked to use steel windows and doors for the police lines ;

(b) what their cost will be as compared with wooden doors and windows of the same size ; and

(c) whether they are to be got made in this country or ordered from foreign places, and if so, from which place ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) About Rs. 27 extra per hut where teakwood is used and Rs. 40 to 47 extra per hut when cheaper country wood is used.

(c) They are manufactured in England by the Crittal Manufacturing Company, Ltd., but are available with their branch in Bombay and their agents Messrs. William Jackson Company at Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether it is proposed to use these steel windows and doors for all public buildings hereafter ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why it has been thought necessary to use steel windows and doors in police lines in preference to wooden windows and doors ? "

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Chief Engineer made a recommendation and the Government approved of it, Sir."

(Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What are you here for, if the Chief Engineer makes the recommendation ? ")

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the use of these steel windows has been decided on as a regular policy, or as an experimental measure ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It is only an experimental measure."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government or the Law Member was consulted before this order was passed ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Government was consulted."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" And did the Government approve of it ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As a temporary measure we approved of it for two years."

16th March 1929]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Was any tender called for in India for these things ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government realize that there are a number of Indian firms like the Tatas and Burns in Bengal, and whether any attempt was made to ask them for tendering prices ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That I do not know, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know what is the purpose of the experiment, whether it is to use the Ministers for relieving unemployment in England ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That is not so, Sir. The real cause was that the use of the steel windows would give strength and last long and they are also vermin proof."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know if the Government have received any information that these windows became shaky after some time ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Not yet, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know from whom these are purchased ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It is given in the answer, Sir, in clause (*c*)."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether steel windows are preferred in this case because the department is a part of the steel-frame of the Government ? " (Laughter.)

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That I cannot answer, Sir." (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the Government are satisfied that the steel windows are free from rust and other defects ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" We are awaiting the report of the authorities about it, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know from whom this idea originated, whether it was not by those who are interested in foreign firms ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The engineering authorities recommended these windows."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister by whom this system was introduced and recommended and whether there was any conflict of opinion between the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer in this matter ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" This was recommended by the engineering authorities, by the Chief Engineer."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Where is he now ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I think he is on leave now."

[16th March 1929

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"May I know from the Minister whether there was any difference of opinion as to the adoption of the steel windows and frames in the police lines between the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"There was not much of difference of opinion."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"Has the Government considered whether the steel frames and windows are suitable to the climatic conditions of this country, in preference to teak and other indigenous articles?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"The Government carefully considered everything before final orders were passed."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"May I know if the Minister consulted the hon. Member in charge of forests before preferring iron to wood?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"There was no necessity, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know whether as a result of this questioning, the hon. Minister would put an end to this purchase of steel windows?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"As I have already said, Sir, we have to get a report from the Chief Engineer by the end of this year, in regard to this matter."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know whether that opinion is binding on the Government?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"No. We want to know what the report of the Chief Engineer would be."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Till a report is made and final orders are passed, and in view of the fact that the two years period is about to expire or has already expired, will the hon. Minister issue an order to discontinue the use of these windows pending the final orders of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"I shall first call for the report."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know, Sir, if among the engineering establishment of the Government there are any relations of the partners or directors of this Messrs. William Jackson Company?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"That I cannot answer, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"Will he kindly examine the question?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"There is no necessity."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"The report will no doubt be called for, and it will take some time for orders to be passed. May I ask that in the meantime no further use of these articles be made?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"I will consider that, Sir."

Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—"When the cost of these articles is more than that of articles made of teak and other materials, as accepted by the Government in clause (*b*) of the answer which says that the extra cost is

16th March 1929]

Rs. 27 or Rs. 40, why then the Government are not considering the economical aspect of the question, and why should they introduce these steel frames and windows?"

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Though the initial cost is more, the cost of maintenance and upkeep will be less."

Mr. P. BAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"May I know from the Minister what the maintenance cost is in the case of teak windows and doors?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. R KARANT:—"Before finally deciding on this point, will the hon. the Minister take the opinion of this House on this matter?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"No, Sir, I do not think it will be possible."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHELAM CHETTI:—"May I know if the Minister for Development has got the power to countermand the orders of the Chief Engineer in this matter?"

The hon. Mr M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"I have."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know if the hon. the Minister has compared the cost of upkeep of the steel windows with that of the upkeep of wooden windows? May I know if he has scrutinized the difference?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"The then Minister must have scrutinized it, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I want definitely to ask the Minister if he has not got information that the steel windows put up for the police school building at Coimbatore are shaky?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Notice."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU:—"May I know from the Minister if it is not the accepted policy of the Government to encourage indigenous articles and indigenous labour? If so, is he aware that by introducing these steel frames and windows, he is replacing Indian labour and Indian materials?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"That is a matter of opinion."

Mr SAMI VENKATACHELAM CHETTI:—"What is the Minister's opinion, Sir?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"He has none, Sir."

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Public Health

Number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Presidency.

1768 Q.—Rao Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in each district in the Presidency; and